

LEX REGIA:
OR THE
ROYAL LAW
OF
DENMARK.

Writ in the *Danish* Language by Order of
FREDERICK III.
King of *Denmark, Norway*, of the
Goths and Vandals, &c.

Subscribed by his Majesty on the 4th Day
of *November* 1665.

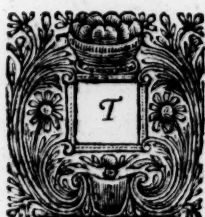
Translated into *English* by a
LOVER of the *British Constitution.*
Jenkin Thomas Phillips 1893.

Felix quem faciunt aliena Pericula cautum.

L O N D O N :
PRINTED in the YEAR MDCCXXXI.



ADVERTISEMENT
TO THE
READER.



THE Goths and Vandals, and other Northern Nations, who broke to Pieces the despotick Power of the Roman Emperors, who oppress'd the rest of Europe, and a great Part of Asia and Africa, were a wise and free People, govern'd by excellent Laws, mix'd with great Humanity and Justice; which they generously established in all their conquered Provinces, in the Place of Tyranny and absolute Government; and therefore were look'd upon by the sub-

ii To the READER.

subdued Inhabitants, not as Barbarians, as they are represented by some Roman Scriblers, but as Saviours and Deliverers sent from Heaven, to rescue Mankind from Slavery.

*These excellent Laws were preserv'd in Spain and France till the Vices and Factions of the Inhabitants, enabled their Princes to make their own Wills bear Sway, instead of the venerable Gothick Constitutions. This mild Government continued in Denmark in all its Integrity, till after the Conclusion of the Peace with the Crown of Sweden, 1660. when the three States, Nobles, Clergy, and Commons, met at Copenhagen to consider of Ways and Means to raise Money to discharge the Debts contracted in the late Wars; but the Nobles insisting upon their Privileges, would not suffer themselves to be tax'd, but would assist only by voluntary Contribution; the Clergy
and*

To the READER. iii

and Commons on the other Hand, insisted upon it, that the Nobles who possess'd the Lands, should pay their Share of the Taxes. This Manner of arguing the Lords could not bear, and one of them stood up and said, that the Commons neither understood the Privileges of the Nobility, nor the true Condition of themselves, who were no better than Slaves. This opprobrious Expression did so irritate the Clergy and Commons, that, after some Debate among themselves, they concluded that they should immediatly wait upon the King, and offer him and his Heirs for ever, their Votes and Assistance, to be absolute Monarch of the Realm, which was done accordingly; for Monsieur Hanson President of Copenhagen, marching at the Head of the Burghers, and Dr. Swan Bishop of that City at the Head of the Clergy, attended his Majesty in the Hall of his Palace, and did offer him an unlimited despotick Government,

iv To the READER.

vernment, which was accepted by the King very kindly. The Nobles in the mean Time apprehensive of no Danger, were assembled in Parliament, and continued their Debates about the great Affairs of the Kingdom, when the said Hanson acquainted them with the Resolution of the Clergy and Commons, and that the King expected them in the Hall of his Palace to receive their Homage as to an absolute or despotick Monarch. It is easy to conceive in what Disorder the Lords must be, at this Time, when altogether unprepar'd for such a dismal and unexpected Stroke, no Man knowing whether his next Neighbour was not in the Plot against the publick Liberty of his Country; therefore they thought best to comply, especially when they understood that the Gates of the City were shut, so that none could make his Escape. Thus fell the Liberty of the ancient Danish Nation a Sacrifice to the Revenge of a Par-

TO the READER. V

Party, rather than to the Ambition of Frederick the Third; a great Lesson to Clergymen and Laymen, to love their Country, and avoid Façons and Parties, which have been always destructive of the publick Liberty.

'Twas upon this Occasion, that this Royal Law or publick Instrument was compos'd by his Majesty's Order, and publish'd in the Danish Language only; and therefore I hope, the translating it into English, needs no Apology, being an authentick Piece, altogether new to the English Reader, for it is not so much as mentioned, in the Book called the State of Denmark; besides 'tis a compleat System of absolute Government, which can't but reflect Honour and Glory upon the British Nation, who thro' Succession of many Ages, have maintain'd in full Lustre the original Northern Plan of Government, and when endanger'd, got it confirm'd by Magna Charta and subsequent Acts
of

vi To the READER.

of Parliament. A Form of Government never enough to be admir'd, it clothes our Kings with excellent Majesty, directing them how to rule over a free People, and not over a Nation of Slaves; which is, I had almost said, the sole Prerogative of British Kings. Our Nobles have real Privileges, and not empty Titles; the Commons have all the Liberty imaginable without running the Risque of turning it into Licentiousness. And the Clergy are so much countenanced, that the Church as by Law establis'd, is made a Part of the Constitution.



Lex Regia.



THE Sovereign Royal Law, constituted and enacted by the most Potent and Illustrious Prince and Lord -- Lord Frederick III. by the Grace of God, King of Denmark, Norway, of the Goths and Vandals, Duke of Schleswig, Holstein, Stormar and Dithmarsh, Count of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst, subscribed by his Majesty on the 14th Day of November 1665, which the most Potent and Illustrious Prince and Lord Frederick IV. by the Grace of God, King of Denmark, Norway, of the Goths and Vandals, &c. has graciously ordered to be printed and published on the 4th Day of September 1709.

WE Frederick IV. by the Grace of God, King of Denmark, Norway, &c. do make known to all Men, whom it may concern, that after we have seriously consider'd,

B

how



Lex Regia.



THE Sovereign Royal Law, constituted and enacted by the most Potent and Illustrious Prince and Lord -- Lord Frederick III. by the Grace of God, King of Denmark, Norway, of the Goths and Vandals, Duke of Schleswig, Holstein, Stormar and Dithmarsh, Count of Oldenburg and Delmenborst, subscribed by his Majesty on the 14th Day of November 1665, which the most Potent and Illustrious Prince and Lord Frederick IV. by the Grace of God, King of Denmark, Norway, of the Goths and Vandals, &c. has graciously ordered to be printed and published on the 4th Day of September 1709.

WE *Frederick IV. by the Grace of God, King of Denmark, Norway, &c. do make known to all Men, whom it may concern, that after we have seriously consider'd,*

B

how

how Almighty God from the Beginning of the World, has permitted great and manifold Alterations in all Kingdoms and Principalities on Earth, by destroying one Kingdom and raising up another, and by uniting many Kingdoms into one, or by dividing one Kingdom into many, and all this is done for the introducing a more regular Form of Government, as it seemeth good to his divine and unsearchable Wisdom:

Therefore We have the greatest Reason imaginable, not only to admire and rejoice at this gracious Conduct of the divine Providence, but also to thank God for his Fatherly Care and Protection of all Mankind.

But amongst many Examples which might be given of God's particular Providence, employ'd in the Conservation of Kings and Civil Governments; we shall now content ourselves to observe how our own hereditary Kingdoms, and more especially that of *Denmark*, has been protected wonderfully by wise Providence; inasmuch as for two thousand Years it has been governed by two Royal Families only, wherein Queens have reigned some few Times, otherwise the Government continued in the Male Line successively, till our Ancestors of the House of *Oldenburg*, descended by a Daughter from the antient Family of *Danish* Kings, ascended the Throne of *Denmark* and *Norway*, which, but a little Time before, were happily united
under

under one King. And there is yet a greater Blessing which God, about two hundred Years ago, has graciously vouchsafed to these Kingdoms; when he bestowed upon these *Northern*, as well as many other Nations of *Europe*, the saving Doctrine of the Gospel, purify'd from the Chaff of human Traditions; for which glorious Light, We and Our Posterity should rejoice with Thanksgiving. Neither can we deny God the Glory due to his Name for the Continuation of prosperous Successes attending our Royal Family, not only by blessing our Arms, and defending us against our Enemies in the greatest Dangers, but more especially by inclining the Hearts of our faithful Subjects, to be so true and loyal to their Lord and King, that scarce any Subjects in all *Christendom* can vie with them in point of Loyalty to their Sovereign; in which good Disposition of Mind, We heartily wish they may stedfastly persevere to the End of Time.

The All-wise God had reserv'd for the Inhabitants of these Kingdoms, the fairest Opportunity of giving a Specimen of their Attachment and Loyalty to their Kings, till our Grandfather's Time, *Frederick III.* of Glorious and Blessed Memory; when all the World might see with Admiration the cheerful Readiness with which they offer'd themselves to serve their Country, and their King in particular, who had so valiantly with

great Prudence defended his faithful Subjects; which was so well-pleasing to Almighty God, that he took both King and Subjects under his gracious Protection; so that his Majesty did not only put a glorious End to a bloody War, but did likewise introduce a new Form of Government; advancing at once the Kingly Power to the highest Degree of Sovereignty, as well as the Happiness of the Subject. Which Revolution being certainly from God, was perfected in a very short Time: For no sooner was the Peace concluded after the raising of the Siege of *Copenhagen*, but that the several States of the Kingdom did unanimously and willingly offer to the King our Grandfather, *Frederick III.* and to the lawful Heirs of his Body, whether Male or Female, an arbitrary or absolute Sovereignty over the Kingdoms of *Denmark* and *Norway*, and the Lands and Provinces thereto belonging.

And this grand Resolution was executed on the 16th of *October* 1660. On which Day our Grandfather, of glorious Memory, was solemnly discharged by the Nobility of the Kingdom, from the Obligation of his Coronation Oath; and on the 18th, the Ecclesiasticks and Citizens did the same, by paying publick Homage to his Majesty, in the Presence of the Queen, and all the Royal Family, and offering him and his Heirs, of both Sexes, an unlimited or despotick Power,

Power, which Homage they confirm'd with a solemn Oath.

On the 17th of *November* following, the three States of the Kingdom were made acquainted by a publick Instrument, that the King was for ever discharged from his Coronation Oath; and that the original Instrument sign'd by his Majesty upon that Occasion, or any Counterpart thereof, should be declar'd Nul, and of none Effect.

And to give a finishing Stroke to this great Work, the Year following, there was an Instrument prepared, called an *Act of Hereditary Right*, or Absolute Power, which was sign'd and seal'd by the principal Inhabitants of the Kingdom, whether Citizens, Lords, or Ecclesiasticks, viz. 'twas signed in *Denmark* the 10th of *January*, 1661; in *Norway* the 7th of *August*, of the same Year; in *Island* the 28th of *July*, 1662; and in the *Island Ferro* on the 14th of *August*, of the said Year. In which Instrument they did not only for themselves and Posterity confirm all that had been transacted by their Fellow-Subjects, with Relation to the Hereditary Succession; but did offer to his Majesty, and to his Heirs for ever, an Absolute Power and Authority, to introduce what Form of Government He in His great Wisdom should judge proper; and likewise to regulate the Succession in his Royal Family according to His own Royal Discretion.

Which

Which Instrument, and other Documents thereto belonging, are safely conserved in our Archives, tho' at the same Time We are very well persuaded, that they are so deeply engraved on the Hearts of our loving Subjects, that they will never forget the Loyalty they owe to us, and to our Royal Hereditary Family.

After Almighty God had conducted this great Work to this Degree of Perfection, our Grandfather, of Glorious Memory, did not only take Care to enact wholesome Laws suitable to the Nature of Absolute Government, and to the Genius of the Inhabitants of these Kingdoms; but did likewise prescribe a *Royal Law* to his own Heirs and Successors in the Government (for the preventing of all irregular Proceedings) wherein they may see the unchangeable Order to be observed in the Succession to the End of the World. As touching this *Royal Law*, its a well-digested Piece, and a Work of many Years, begun by our Grandfather, of Glorious Memory, but finish'd in the Reign of our Father King *Christian V.* of Blessed Memory; who, in the Year 1683, did publish the *Royal Law* of *Denmark*, and in the Year 1687, did add thereto the Law of *Norway*; both which Laws were very beneficial to the Inhabitants: But as for the *Royal Law* introduced by King *Frederick III.* of Glorious Memory, and given out by him on the
the

the 14th of *November*, 1665; viz. four Years before his Death; it is to be look'd upon, and observ'd by all Degrees and Orders of Men, as an unchangeable, perfect, and fundamental Law of this Land.

And it is this *Royal Law*, that We have judg'd proper to be printed Word for Word with great Exactness, as it is in the Original, least at any Time the original Documents might unhappily perish, by any unforeseen Accident, and consequently no true Copy to be found; and likewise that many Princes and illustrious Persons, as well as the Inhabitants of this Land, may have a perfect Knowledge of this *Royal Law*. Dated at Our Castle of *Rosenburg*, the 4th of *September*, in the Year 1709. under Our Royal Hand and Seal.

Frederick R.

WE *Frederick III.* by the Grace of God, King of *Denmark, Norway*, of the *Goths* and *Vandals*, &c. make it known to all Men, whom it may concern, that after God in his infinite Wisdom had deliver'd our Royal House and Kingdoms from imminent Danger and Ruin threatned by a bloody War, by restoring Peace and Tranquillity to this Land; he did at the same Time graciously incline the Hearts of our Coun-

Council, with the unanimous Concurrence of the several States of the Kingdom, to part with all their own Rights and Privileges, and to discharge us from our Coronation Oath ; making all Bonds and Deeds signed by us for preserving the Liberties of the People, to be Nul, Void, and of none Effect. Declaring Us and the Heirs of Our Body, whether Male or Female, begot in lawful Marriage, as long as any of them are surviving, to have, according to their Seniority, an Absolute Despotical Right to these our Kingdoms of *Denmark* and *Norway*, with all the Badges of Sovereign Power, and *Jura Majestatis*. And these our loving Subjects did not by any Constraint or Force, but freely after mature Consideration, devolve upon Us the said Absolute *Sovereignty*, empowering Us to make Nul and Void all Laws and Ordinances grounded upon our Coronation Oath, and particularly that relating to our dear Son, Prince *Christian*; dated the 18th of *June*, 1650; and another Act, entitled, *A Provisional Disposition*; dated the 9th of *June*, 1651. Or any other Law or Decree whatsoever, which may by any Way attaint or weaken our Absolute Hereditary Power, and enabling Us at the same Time to regulate the Succession both in the Male and Female Line; and to prescribe Directions for the Guardians of the Kings our Successors during their Minority. And therefore

fore it is our good Will and Pleasure to give out a *Royal Law*, which our Subjects and their Posterity must observe and swear to, as to the fundamental Law of this Realm, so that neither We or Our lawful Heirs, or any of their Descendants can either privately or publickly contravene or disobey; but on the contrary they are to bind themselves with an Oath to oppose all such that speak or act against this *Royal Law*, whether they be Natives or Foreigners: And are not to suffer themselves to be influenced either with Fear or Love, with the Hope of Gain, or with the Apprehension of Damage, so as to speak or act any Thing, which may diminish our Despotick Power, by turning away from Us the Hearts of our loving Subjects: Wherefore We having in View the future Happiness of our People, do constitute and appoint this *Royal Law* to be observ'd by all our Successors, and by all the Inhabitants of these Kingdoms, from the Highest to the Lowest of them, as an unchangeable, perfect, and fundamental Law of this Land to the End of Time.

1. Seeing that all Things derive their Beginning from God, We will therefore in the first Place, in this *Royal Law* recommend very particularly to our Children, and to their Children's Children, whether of the Male or Female Line, to a thousand Generations, the Worship of the true God, as

reveal'd in the Holy Scriptures, and as set forth in the Confession of *Ausburg*, and that all the Inhabitants of this Land be protected in this Profession of the Christian Faith, against all *Sectaries*, *Hereticks*, and *Revilers* of the Christian Religion.

2. The King of *Denmark* and *Norway* shall hereafter be esteem'd by all his Subjects, as independent upon Earth, acknowledging no higher Power than God only.

3. The Kings of *Denmark* shall have the highest Authority to make, alter and repeal Laws, or dispense with them, as he shall think proper.

4. All Employments and Offices, of what Nature and Denomination soever, shall be appointed by the King's Absolute Authority.

5. The Kings shall have Power of making Peace and War, forming Alliances, and laying Taxes upon the Inhabitants, because it is well known that a Kingdom's Peace cannot be maintain'd without an Army, and an Army cannot subsist without a Treasure.

6. The King shall have an absolute Authority in the Affairs of the Church, and all religious Assemblies; in a Word, he shall enjoy all the Rights and Prerogatives, which an Hereditary, Absolute or Despotick KING can enjoy.

7. All Ordinances and Rights relating to the Government, shall be issued out in the King's

[II]

King's Name only, who if of full Age, is to sign them with His own Hand.

8. As soon as the King has entered upon his 14th Year, he shall declare himself to be of full Age, and to be no longer under Tutors and Guardians.

9. The Guardianship of a Minor King shall be regulated by the last Will of his Predecessor; but in case the deceased King made no such Provision in his Testament, then the Queen, his Widow, if surviving, shall be Regent to the young King her Son, taking to her Assistance seven of the King's chief Counsellors, who shall manage the Government amongst them, deciding all Controversies by Majority of Votes, wherein the Queen is to have Two, and each of the other seven Counsellors, One; all Dispatches and Ordinances are to be issued out in the King's Name, and to be signed by the Queen and the said seven Counsellors.

10. If the Queen Mother be dead, or married again, then shall the next Prince of the Blood, if in his 18th Year, and can always abide in the Kingdom, be Regent, and have two Votes, as aforesaid.

11. But if the Prince of the Blood is not in his 18th Year, then the said seven chief Officers of the King shall manage the Regency, whereof every one of them is to have a Vote and equal Authority.

12. If one of the said seven chief Officers dies, or by any other Accident is render'd incapable for that high Employment, then another shall be immediately elected, and take his Place in the Regency.

13. The said Regents or Guardians shall not only promise Fidelity to the King, but shall likewise swear that they will exert their utmost Diligence to preserve the Absolute and Despotick Power in its full Force and Virtue, during the Time of their Regency, as they shall answer to God and the King, that it may be transmitted to Posterity.

14. As soon as the seven Regents have taken their Oath of Fidelity to his Majesty, they shall immediately make an exact Inventory of all the Provinces, Cities, Fortresses, Jewels, Money, and of warlike Stores, both by Sea and Land, as well as of the King's Expences and Incomes, that it may thereby appear in what State and Condition the Kingdom is at that Time; and that the Regency may be by this Means enabled to give a good Account of their *Administration* to his Majesty as soon as He shall be of Age, or else be punished for abusing the Trust reposed in them.

15. This Kingdom of *Denmark* henceforth shall never be reputed to want a King, for in that very Moment that a King dies, the next Prince of the Blood is actually, without any farther Ceremony, an Hereditary Despotick or Absolute King. 16. Be-

16. Because since the several States of the Kingdom have invested us and our Descendants for ever, with an Absolute and Unlimited Sovereignty, all Forms and Ceremonies are Useless and Preposterous, because for the future Our next Heirs will be born KINGS, and not elected. Nevertheless, that all the World may see that the Kings of *Denmark* and *Norway* do reckon it their greatest Glory and Power to humble themselves before the Almighty God, and to be blessed of Him, by the Hands of the faithful Ministers of Christ; We therefore Will and Order that the Kings of *Denmark* be anointed solemnly in the Church with decent Ceremonies.

17. The King shall make no Oath of any Kind, whether by Word or Writing to his Subjects, because neither Covenants nor Oaths can bind an *Hereditary Absolute Sovereign*.

18. A King of *Denmark* may order himself to be anointed when he thinks proper, even during his Minority, the better to derive upon his Person and Subjects the Blessing of *Almighty God*, and as for the ceremonial Part, He may regulate it according to the Circumstances of Time and Place.

19. And seeing daily Experience teacheth Us, that the more Powerful any Potentate or Monarch in united Provinces is, the more secure he and his Subjects will be against foreign Invasions : Therefore We will and command,

mand, that these our Kingdoms of *Denmark* and *Norway*, with all the Provinces, Islands, Lordships, Fortresses, Jewels, ready Money, and all other Goods, and warlike Stores, both by Sea and Land, which we now possess, or which our Successors by any lawful Title hereafter may acquire, do all remain undivided in the Possession of one Absolute Hereditary King of *Denmark* and *Norway*.

20. And it is our Will and Pleasure that the other Children do content themselves with the Hope of Reigning when it comes to their Turn, and with honourable Maintenance, either in Money or Lands, the Incomes whereof they shall enjoy for their Lives, but the Property of it remaining still in the King; and the Provision which shall be made for the Queen Dowager, shall be on the same Foot.

21. That no Prince of the Blood do presume to marry, to go out of the Kingdom, or to engage himself in the Service of a foreign Prince, without asking Leave of the KING.

22. The King's Daughters and Sisters shall have a Maintenance suitable to their Quality, till they are married with the King's Consent and Approbation, and then are to have such Dowry, as the King, in his Wisdom, shall think fitting; they at the same Time declaring in Writing under their Hands, that they will expect no more from
his

his Majesty either for themselves, or for their Children; but content themselves with the Hope of succeeding in the Government, when it comes to be their Turn.

23. If it so falls out at the King's Death, that the next Heir to the Crown, shall happen to be then out of the Kingdom, He shall immediately return to his Kingdom of *Denmark*, to abide and to keep his Court there, and immediately take the Reins of Government in his own *Hand*: But in case he does not repair to his own Kingdom within the Space of three Months, reckoning from the Time that he has been apprised of the Death of his Predecessor, unless in case of Sickness, or some other lawful Impediment; then the next apparent Heir to the Crown, shall be declared *Stateholder* or *Vice-Gerent*, till his Majesty's happy Arrival into his Hereditary Dominions, in Pursuance of the Tenour of the *Royal Law*, in the Case of Minority and Guardianship already mentioned.

24. The Princes and Princesses in the Point of Precedence shall take their Place immediately next to the King and Queen, and amongst themselves according to the Proximity of their Line, to the Hereditary Succession in the Government.

25. They shall never swear before any Judge, but before the King only, or by one immediately delegated by his Majesty.

26. What

26. What may be farther said, for the better Explication of the *Royal Law*, is briefly comprehended in these Words; that the *Hereditary Kings of Denmark and Norway*, may and do enjoy an Uncircumscribed and Unlimited Power and Authority, in the strongest Sense that any other *Christian Hereditary and Despotick King* can be said to enjoy the same; all which is likewise to be understood of the *Hereditary Queens of Denmark and Norway*, when the Succession falls into the Female Line; and seeing We are taught by daily and woeful Experience, that the Authority and Power of Kings are oftentimes undermined by their own Ministers, in whom they repose the greatest Trust, and whom they most load with particular and daily Favours: Therefore We command that our Successors, the *Hereditary Kings of Denmark and Norway*, be very jealous in this Point, and with attentive Heed examine the Proceedings of their Ministers, with relation to our *Absolute Sovereignty*, that so it may be transmitted without Spot or Blemish in its full Glory and Vigour to Our latest Successors: And for the farther strengthening of the same, We Will and Command that whosoever presumes to speak or act any Thing which may be prejudicial to our *Absolute Power and Authority*, be proceeded against as a Traytor to our Crown and Dignity, and be severely punish'd as usually in Case of High Treason.

27. Hav-

27. Having already ordered, that the Kingdoms of *Denmark* and *Norway*, and the Provinces thereto belonging, remain for *Ever* undivided:

We shall now proceed for the preventing of Discord hereafter in Our Royal Family, to regulate the Succession as particularly as can be. Therefore it is our Will and Pleasure, that as long as any of our Male Heirs, born in lawful Marriage are living, that neither a Woman descended from the Male, nor Man nor Woman descended from the Female, shall be called to the Succession. Nor any Prince or Princess by the Mother's Side, have any Right or Title to the same, as long as any Prince or Princess by the Father's Side are to be found, so that a Princess of the Masculine, shall be preferred to a Prince descended of the Female Line.

28. When the Succession falls to a Princess of the Blood, She shall have the Preference, who is descended from an Elder, rather than any other, and so on, as long as any of the Masculine Line doth survive; but when the Male Line is quite extinct, the *Princes* and *Princesses* of the Female Line, shall take their Turn, and the same Order be observed in the Succession, that is to say, the Male is to go before the Female, and the Elder is always to take Place of the Younger.

29. But to set this Matter in a clear Light by an Example, and to take away all Handle of Contention from our own Children, when it shall please God to remove us from this Earthly, to a Heavenly Kingdom ; Prince *Christian* our first-born Son shall enjoy and possess the Hereditary Absolute Government of *Denmark* and *Norway*, and of all the Provinces and Lordships thereunto belonging, and as long as any of his Male Descendants are to be found (tho' he himself be dead before us) yet neither Prince G. nor any of his Family, nor his Sister, nor her Family, shall have any Right or Claim to the Crown of our Hereditary Kingdoms.

30. But when the Line of the Family of Prince *Christian* is quite Extinct, then the Male Line of our Son Prince *George* shall possess the Absolute Government of these Kingdoms ; observing the aforesaid Regulation, viz. The Male to go before the Female, and the Elder to go before the Younger, tho' he was born before his Father came to the Crown : And if it pleases Almighty God graciously to bless us with more Children, the same Method of Proceeding is to be observed likewise with Relation to them.

31. But upon Supposition (which God forbid) that the Male Line should fail, then the Succession shall fall into the Share of the last

last King's Son's Daughter, and to her Heirs, if she hath any, but in case she hath none, then the King's eldest Daughter and her Descendants, and then the Second and her Descendants, one after another, Line after Line, the Male always to be preferred before the Female, and the Elder before the Younger.

32. But if the last King leaves neither Son nor Daughter behind him, then the next Princess of the Blood shall succeed in the Government.

33. Next to this shall a *Princess* who is nearest relating to the King in the Male Line ascend the Throne, and her *Descendants* as aforesaid.

34. But if our Son's Families are become quite Extinct, then the Princess *Anne Sophia*, and her Heirs to a thousand Generations shall sway the Scepter of these Kingdoms.

35. The Daughter of an elder Daughter, shall be preferred to a Son of a younger Daughter, that the Genealogical Order may not be disturbed, but that the Second succeed the First, the Third the Second, the Fourth the Third, and so on.

36. But if the Succession falls to the Share of a Daughter's Son, and that he is blessed with Male Heirs, then the same Order is to be observed with regard to his Descendants, as has already been prescribed to our Masculine Line.

37. The Queen's Husband shall have no Authority in these Kingdoms, however powerful a Prince he may be in his own Country; but shall give the Precedence to her in all Things, and obey her, as the Hereditary Sovereign *Queen of Denmark and Norway*.

38. Amongst our Sons and Daughters who have Right to succeed in the Government; Posthumous Children, born after their Father's Death are justly accounted such, and shall in their Turn, as well as the others, succeed in the *Government*.

39. And for the better preventing the Collateral Lines from being disturbed, and confounded for the Time to come; We Will and Command, when at any Time for the future, a Son or Daughter is born in any of the Branches of the Royal Family, that the Parents (if they expect their Children should have any Right to the Crown) do transmit the Names of that Prince or Princess, and the Day of their Birth to the King, that they may be duly registered; and that they on the other Hand, do desire His Majesty to grant them an Instrument, acknowledging that He had been made acquainted with the Birth of the said *Prince or Princess*; a Counterpart whereof shall be carefully kept in our Archives, that by this Means the Genealogy of our Royal *House* may be kept clear and undisturbed. 8

40. All that has been spoken hitherto of Sons and Daughters, is to be understood of those begot in lawful Marriage.

Thus have We, according to the best Direction of Human Prudence, made Provision for the future Peace and Prosperity of our dear and loving Subjects ; but the best-concerted Schemes of Human Policy are still in the Hands of *Almighty God*; into whose gracious Protection and fatherly Providence, We most humbly recommend our Kingdoms and all our *Loyal Subjects*, to the End of the World.

Dated at our Court in *Copenhagen*, the Fourteenth of *November*, and Signed

FREDERICK.

F I N I S.



